



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast!
March 15, 2020, The 3rd Sunday in Lent

Not a Sermon . . .

John 4:5-42: The Gospel reading for the 3rd Sunday in Lent, long with a lot to unpack, is the famous story of Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well. I am reminded of the saying chaplains used at Hartford Hospital: "you are the chaplain to the person in front of you." Jesus and his disciples were on their way through Samaria, and they had stopped only to rest and refresh. They did not have evangelistic intentions toward the Samaritans. But it's clear from Jesus' encounter with the woman's that the Good News got through. During lent Biblical scholars encourage us to take some points from this story. One, be open to a new possibility in your life, like the woman was. Two, be willing to look at your life honestly, like the woman acknowledged her disastrous history of marriage. And three, allow change to enter your life: don't be afraid of the new water! May it be so. Amen.

Needless to say, there's much uncertainty going on in our world, our country, and our state. I, like many others, have lost a lot of trust and faith in institutions that I have trusted in the past. Of one thing I am sure of though: it is good for us to remember in prayer those struggling. If you are so inclined, please use the "Prayer for a Pandemic" (Cameron Wiggins Bellm)- *With blessings, Vance.*



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May we who are merely inconvenienced
remember those whose lives are at stake.
May we who have no risk factors
remember those most vulnerable.
May we who have the luxury of working from home
remember those who must choose between
preserving their health or making their rent.
May we who have the flexibility to care for our children
when their schools close
remember those that have no options.
May we who have to cancel our trips
remember those who have no safe place to go.
May we who are losing our savings
in the tumult of the economic market
remember those who have no savings at all.
As fear grips our country,
let us choose love during this time when we
cannot physically wrap our arms around each other.
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace
of God to our neighbor. Amen.

This Week Prayers for . . .

- Mary's soul and comfort for her husband Joe and her family. Mary died last week after an extended battle with disease.
- healing and comfort for Debbie (out-of-state friend) and her husband John.
- all who are suffering from illness or fear of illness and uncertainty.